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SAWMILL SHORT COURSE

for Extension Foresters of the North Central Region,
March 13-16, 1951, Sinnissippi Forest, Illinois

How, Why, When, and Where

At the North Central States Regional Conference of Extension Foresters, held at Allerton Memorial Park near Monticello, Ill., April 10-12, 1950, Dr. J. Nelson Spaeth, head of the University of Illinois Forestry Department, offered to make available the Department's facilities at Sinnissippi Forest (near Oregon, Ill.) for a special sawmill and forest utilization training period. The North Central States extension directors meeting at Ely, Minn., in September 1950 approved such a training course. Dr. Spaeth and Illinois Extension Forester Lawson B. Culver, cooperating with representatives of the Forest Service (Ralph K. Day, Central States Forest Experiment Station, Columbus Ohio, and C. J. Telford and Eugene W. Fobes, of the Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis.) made the necessary arrangements. An attendance list including public and industry representatives is attached.

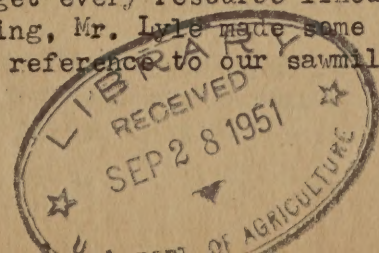
The lecture periods and special sessions were held in the auditorium of the Ogle County Farm Bureau Building in Oregon, Ill. The center of the field work was the Sinnissippi Forest Sawmill, 4 miles from Oregon. All the "work" was done by "employees" of the "Thick and Thin Lumber Company."

Getting Down to Business - Tuesday, March 13

The first general session convened at 8:30 a.m. in the Farm Bureau Auditorium. After all-round introductions, Mr. Culver said that he hoped each one present would obtain the maximum value from the course; and that the arrangement committee would welcome comments and suggestions at any time. Mr. Culver stated that log grading and safety were topics added to the original outline.

S. P. Lyle, Extension Service, Washington, D. C., in charge of agricultural subject-matter specialists, opened the short course and commented that the current international emergency made this training period highly desirable, and that the more we arm and prepare ourselves, the less likelihood of an all-out war. He reported that the Department of Agriculture was developing a statement of services to the family farm telling what each agency can supply. With regard to fire defense, Mr. Lyle stated that many State extension foresters have worked on this activity during and since the war and play an important part, especially in connection with Spring Clean-Up Week and the Fall Fire Prevention Campaign.

Mr. Lyle pointed out that often a specialist does not appreciate the key position he occupies as the subject-matter leader. He must plan the work, develop the program, getting full support from his colleagues, from the county agent, and from the extension director. The educational job is to find out what should be done for farmers in every State, then get every resource lined up to contribute to the job and tie together. In closing, Mr. Lyle made some suggestions bearing upon farm safety, with particular reference to our sawmill short course.



Mr. C. J. Telford, of the Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, was "dean" of the short course and admonished the students that every sawlog is a challenge. To get the most out of a log it is necessary to keep in mind the products wanted, whether factory lumber or construction lumber, each having its own specifications, and to know the defects. Mr. Telford reviewed with the group a book of instructions which would serve as a guide in the sawing of construction lumber. There was plenty of discussion as various topics were brought up. Edgar Lott outlined the log grades used in Indiana. Mr. Telford requested that every man do every job about the mill during the short course, and that afternoon the employees of the "Thick and Thin Lumber Company" went into action, with sawdust flying in all directions. Students who weren't busy saving lumber, busied themselves grading logs in the log yard under the direction of Eugene W. Fobes and Ralph K. Day, or were absorbing sawmill safety from Ralph Ahlskog, or lumber utilization from Coleman L. Vaughan and D. L. Fassnacht.

Wednesday - March 14

Gathering for a morning session at the Farm Bureau Auditorium, "Dean" Telford showed color slides of logs being opened up at various mills, explaining why various saw cuts were made and suggesting other possibilities. The boys entered into the arguments as only extension foresters would.

E. A. Clevenger, vice-president of the Corley Manufacturing Co., Chattanooga, Tenn., discussed "Sawmill Equipment and Lay-out." He mentioned the various makes of portable sawmills and thought the trend was toward semiportable types. The small sawmills operate on the average of about 110 days a year. Mr. Clevenger is a very able speaker and punctuated his remarks with numerous personal experiences, to the delight of the group.

Wednesday afternoon more sawdust was made by the crew of the "Thick and Thin Lumber Company," and that evening more hair flew in a closed session among the extension foresters, but first Howard W. Fox, manager of Sinnissippi Forest, explained the development of the forest and discussed the research activities and marketing operations carried on.

The evening discussion centered on a national organization of extension foresters. Mr. Sowder reviewed remarks made by those extension foresters who attended the Golden Anniversary of the Society of American Foresters in Washington, D. C., December 1950, on the subject, calling attention to the proposal sent out by Extension Forester James S. Therrell, of Mississippi. Numerous comments were made on the proposal with reference to membership, composition, dues, officers, meetings, and so forth, but no significant criticisms were raised.

Messrs. Metcalf and Abbott questioned whether there could be real practical value in such an organization, and raised the issue of proper objectives to be adopted. Messrs. Metcalf and McCormick voiced serious doubts that extension directors would look favorably on an organization of extension foresters. Mr. Culver's feeling was that such an organization would stimulate a unified front and simultaneous action on problems and opportunities.

Mr. Bell moved that the North Central States extension foresters go on record as favoring a national organization of extension foresters. Motion seconded. Mr. Metcalf suggested that a committee of two or three draw up a stronger, more

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specific organization plan and then submit it to the North Central extension foresters for ballot. Mr. Bell's motion carried. Mr. McCormick moved that a committee be appointed to draw up a suggested organization plan and then submit it for review within the North Central region, whereupon it would be revised and presented to extension foresters Nation-wide. Motion seconded and carried. Messrs. Culver, Anderson, and Bell were appointed, and this committee later became identified as the Big ABC (Anderson, Bell, and Culver) Committee.

Thursday, March 15.

Again the group met at the Farm Bureau Auditorium in the morning for a talk on "Power Units and Power Transmission" by R. P. BaRoss (a graduate forester) of the Caterpillar Tractor Co. There was ample discussion on points of controversy Back to the sawmill in the afternoon for more true-cut honest widths, thicknesses lengths, and weights of boards by the executives of the "Thick and Thin Lumber Company." Assistant Deans Ralph Day and Gene Fobes continued their instructions on log grading in the mill yard while Assistant Dean Ralph Ahlsog constantly "kibitzed" on safety around the sawmill.

The Thursday evening session at Kable Inn, Mount Morris, Ill., joined in by staff and students, centered on timber-harvesting equipment adapted to farm use. As a result of this session, a Little ABC (Abbott, Bell, Campbell) Committee was appointed which drew up the following suggestion:

"That the State extension foresters of the North Central Region resolve that Extension Forester A. M. Sowder, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, be authorized to act for this group and make contact with the appropriate authorities in the Washington office of the Extension Service with the object in view of recommending to the deans or directors of the agricultural experiment stations the desirability of using presently appropriated funds of the Research and Marketing Act (Title II of the Bankhead-Flanagan Act) for development of research work in the field of farm forestry equipment."

Mr. Clevenger gave an interesting and entertaining talk on sawmill performance and experience.

Friday, March 16

The morning was devoted to touring the Sinnissippi Forest, with stops at the numerous plantations, observing the various research projects, and straightening out accounts at the sawmill.

In the afternoon a "Trouble-Shooting Sawmill Clinic" was held at the Farm Bureau Auditorium with a chance to ask the faculty plenty of questions. The report of the Little ABC Committee was also accepted by the extension foresters, and the Big ABC Committee was to report later.

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Upon return to Washington, D. C., Mr. Sowder submitted the report of the Little ABC Committee, and a memorandum from Harry C. Trelogan, assistant for Marketing, Agricultural Research Administration, is as follows:

"Funds appropriated for Title II of the Research and Marketing Act are to be used exclusively for marketing work. Recommendations to State agricultural experiment stations might more appropriately come from within the States rather than from the Washington office. This is especially true with respect to the work involved because the Research and Marketing Act funds that could be used for it are allotted to the States on a formula basis (Title I, Section 9), and decisions regarding their use are largely within the discretion of the experiment station officials."

Thus, requests for funds for development of research work in the field of farm forestry equipment, must originate in the States.

With reference to the report of the Big ABC Committee, Mr. Culver wrote on July 6, "The Committee does not have a finished product as yet. I am looking forward to having a commendable product available for consideration by our regional group as well as the rest of the States."

The North Central States extension foresters expressed great satisfaction over the results of the Sawmill Short Course and are keenly appreciative of the authorization of the North Central States extension directors to hold this short course and also for the efforts put forth by Dr. J. Nelson Spaeth, Lawson B. Culver, Howard W. Fox, Farm Adviser C. L. Banner, C. J. Telford, Ralph K. Day, Eugene Fobes, Ralph Ahlskog, E. A. Clevenger, R. P. BaRoss, Coleman L. Vaughan, and S. P. Lyle. The group was indeed grateful to Dr. and Mrs. C. Phillip Miller of the Sinnissippi Forest for permitting the students and staff of the "Thick and Thin Lumber Company" to go into action.

This report submitted by Marvin E. Smith and A. M. Sowder.

ATTENDANCE

Small Sawmill Short Course
Sinnissippi Forest, Oregon, Illinois, March 13-16, 1951

STUDENTS

North Central Region Extension Foresters

<u>Illinois:</u>	L. B. Culver, William F. Bulkley, and Gordon R. Cunningham
<u>Indiana:</u>	Edgar J. Lott, A. N. Liming, and Harold Scholten
<u>Iowa:</u>	Richard B. Campbell
<u>Kansas:</u>	Paul E. Collins
<u>Michigan:</u>	Lester E. Bell, John W. Fields, Roy E. Skog, and Wm. B. Love
<u>Minnesota:</u>	Parker Anderson and Marvin E. Smith
<u>Missouri:</u>	L. E. McCormick
<u>North Dakota:</u>	John J. Zaylskie
<u>Ohio:</u>	Forest W. Dean
<u>Wisconsin:</u>	Fred B. Trenk and R. W. Abbott

Extension Foresters from Other Regions

<u>California:</u>	Woodbridge Metcalf
<u>Colorado:</u>	R. E. Ford
<u>Washington, D.C.:</u>	A. M. Sowder

Others

<u>Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis.:</u>	Coleman L. Vaughan
<u>Central States Forest Experimental Station, Elizabethtown, Ill.:</u>	Donald L. Fassnacht

FACULTY

<u>Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis.:</u>	C. J. Telford, Eugene W. Fobes
<u>Forest Experiment Station, Columbus, Ohio:</u>	Ralph K. Day
<u>Forest Service Regional Office, Milwaukee, Wis.:</u>	Ralph H. Ahlskog
<u>Caterpillar Tractor Co., Peoria, Ill.:</u>	R. P. BaRoss
<u>Corley Manufacturing Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.:</u>	Ernest A. Clevenger
<u>Sinnissippi Forest, Oregon, Ill.:</u>	Howard W. Fox
<u>University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.:</u>	Dr. J. Nelson Spaeth
<u>Extension Service, Washington, D. C.:</u>	S. P. Lyle

VISITORS

<u>Forest Service Regional Office, Milwaukee, Wis.:</u>	Malcolm B. Arthur, J. W. Walley, G. W. Jones, and G. L. Dimmick
<u>Lake States Forest Experiment Station, Grand Rapids, Minn.:</u>	Z. A. Zasada

